

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 254

By Hensley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Deborah Walker on her selection as Teacher of the Year at Lewis County Middle School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Walker is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walker has recently been selected Teacher of the Year at Lewis County Middle School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walker is an eight-year veteran of the classroom and presently teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th grade reading classes; and

WHEREAS, financially unable to attend college as a young person, Ms. Walker later followed in her late husband's footsteps to work in the world of business; and

WHEREAS, after deciding she needed a change in career, Ms. Walker applied for employment with the Decatur County school system and was offered a position as a teacher's assistant in the special education department at the county's middle school; and

WHEREAS, she absolutely loved working with the students in her new job and was subsequently inspired by the school superintendent to return to college and obtain her teaching degree; and

WHEREAS, she took night classes while continuing to work as a teacher's assistant during the day, and in 2004 she proudly received her MAED degree in special education from Union University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walker approaches each school day with an open mind and a sense of humor, and she is renowned for making a positive impact on her students' lives through her willingness to think outside the box and her fearlessness in employing new techniques; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Walker is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walker truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Deborah Walker truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Deborah Walker on being chosen Teacher of the Year at Lewis County Middle School, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.